

Message Text

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66-60

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 DLOS-06 COA-02 SSO-00 EB-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 223322

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XA, US, IT

SUBJECT: YOUR CONSULTATIONS IN ROME

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM

1. YOU MAY WISH EXPLORE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC ITEMS IN
TALKS WITH PEDINI AND BENELLI.

2. GULF OF SIRTE. ITALIAN EMBOFF CALLED NOV 6 TO EXPLORE
WHAT USG MIGHT DO RE LARG CLAIM THAT GULF OF SIRTE WAS
LIBYAN "INTERNAL WATERS." SUBJECT HAS ALSO BEEN DIS-
CUSSED BY NATO POLADS ON OCT 15, 23, NOV 6 AND SCHEDULED
AGAIN FOR NOV 13. AT NOV 6 MEETING, UK CIRCULATED DRAFT
PROTEST NOTE WHICH ITALIANS SUPPORTED AFTER SUGGESTING
WORD "PROTEST" BE REPLACED WITH "RESERVES ALL RIGHTS".
WE INFORMED ITALIAN EMBOFF THAT USG PLANNING A PROTEST
TO LARG AND WOULD CONSULT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES INTER-
ESTED IN ISSUE. WE PROPOSED THAT IF HE WOULD FURNISH
LIST OF POSTS WHERE ITALIAN GOVT WAS CONSULTING ON

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BILATERAL BASIS, WE WOULD REQUEST OUR POSTS TO DISCUSS

ISSUE WITH ITALIAN EMBASSY REPS AS WELL AS WITH HOST GOVTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES. WE ARE INFORMING USNATO ON FYI BASIS THAT DEPT PREPARING PROTEST NOTE TO LARG EMBASSY WASHINGTON COVERING SIRTE AND OTHER LOS PROBLEMS INCLUDING: (1) US VIEWS ON LARG CLAIMED 12 NM TERRITORIAL SEA LIMIT VICE 3 NM CLAIM RECOGNIZED BY USG;

(2) MINING WITHIN TERRITORIAL WATERS AS INTERFERENCE WITH RIGHT OF INNOCENT PASSAGE; AND (3) LACK OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF MINEFIELDS. USG WOULD BE WILLING TO USE LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY UK IN NOV 6 NATO MEETING AND TO SEPARATE PROTEST ON SIRTE ISSUE FROM OTHER LOS MATTERS IF NATO COULD ARRIVE AT AGREED POSITION. HOWEVER, IT APPARENT FROM POLAD'S DISCUSSIONS TO DATE THAT AGREED NATO POSITION ON SIRTE QUESTION IS UNLIKELY. WE ARE THEREFORE CONSIDERING CONSULTING BILATERALLY WITH SOME NATO COUNTRIES AND POSSIBLY OTHERS INTERESTED IN LARG ACTIONS ON LOS. TIMING OF THOSE CONSULTATIONS AND OF PROTEST TO LARG IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. YOU MIGHT WISH TO ASK GOI FOR ITS VIEWS OF MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO HANDLE THIS PROBLEM AND SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES WITH WHOM WE MIGHT COORDINATE RESPONSES.

3. ITALIAN-TUNISIAN FISHING DISPUTES. GOT HAS OCCASIONALLY REPORTED TO US DISPUTES RE FISHING RIGHTS. YOU MIGHT WISH TO ASK GOI IF THESE PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT.

4. ITALIAN-ALGERIAN GAS AGREEMENTS. EMBASSY ROME HAS REPORTED (ROME 11661) SOME DETAILS OF AGREEMENT CONCLUDED FOR NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FROM ALGERIA TO ITALY VIA CAP BON, TUNISIA. YOU MIGHT WISH TO ASK GOI WHETHER THEY EXPECT PIPELINE TO BE OPERATIONAL ON SCHEDULE (1978) AND HOW MUCH GAS WILL COST.

5. RECOGNIZING THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES OF THE ISSUE FOR THE VATICAN, PORTUGAL AND THE US, YOU MAY NEVERTHELESS WISH TO OBTAIN THE VATICAN'S ASSESSMENT OF
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CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE. THIS MIGHT INCLUDE THE REPORTS OF ALLEGED ATROCITIES REPORTEDLY CONVEYED BY CATHOLIC PRIESTS. YOU WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO PUT THE MATTER IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR CONTINUING ADVOCACY OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES.

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